

FAS – Office of Global Analysis (OGA)
United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)
International Operational Agriculture Monitoring Program



Week 2 Summary

1 Production for MY 2008/09 winter wheat and barley crop is forecasted to be lower than the previous year, particularly in the northern rainfed provinces due to persistent drought conditions. Decreases are also expected in the central and southern provinces due to a degraded irrigation infrastructure.

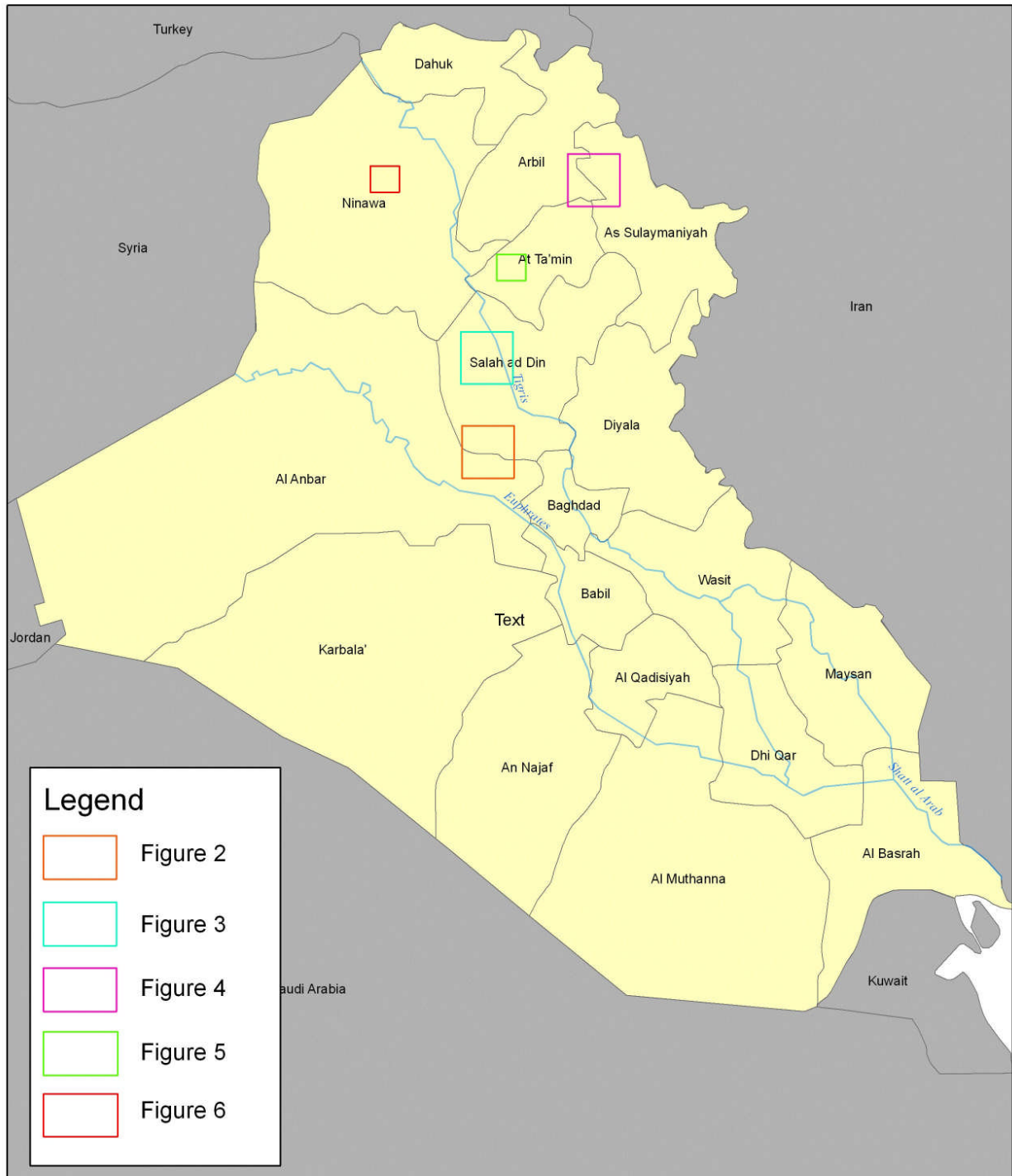
2 The northern provinces experienced recent precipitation events to help boost soil moisture, but cumulative precipitation remains well below normal. Global Reservoir monitor shows that water levels of Buhayrat ath Tharthar remain below the 15-year average (Figure 1).

3 Image comparisons between Landsat 7 ETM+ imagery (March 8th, 2003) and AWiFS IRS P6 (February 9th, 2008) show that water levels of Buhayrat ath Tharthar in 2003 are less than current. However, irrigation in March 2003 was significantly better with more irrigated cropland (Figure 2 & 3). Cropland area in the northern provinces was significantly more abundant with imagery showing higher water levels in important reservoirs and primary irrigation sources (Figure 4).

4 Comparison between MODIS NDVI from winter grains seasons 2006/07 and 2007/08 showed that the northern provinces have significantly less cropland than the previous year. The central and southern provinces are comparable to the previous year (Figure 5). Comparison between the 2007/08 winter grains season with the 5-year average showed that much of the cropland areas are below normal abundance (Figure 6).

5 Within season comparison of high resolution Quickbird imagery collected over AOI#5 (Ninawa) showed that cropland abundance between November 2007 and February 2008 has not changed and remains sparse (Figure 7). Imagery acquired over AOI#14 (At Ta'min) showed that cropland abundance had significantly increased between December 2007 and February 2008. This large increase is attributed to area having a higher irrigation potential than the most northern provinces during poor rainfall (Figure 8).

Overview Map of Report Figures



Data Source: MODIS NDVI - 250m
Data Provided by: University of Maryland
Supporting: USDA/FAS/OGA
International Production Assessment Division



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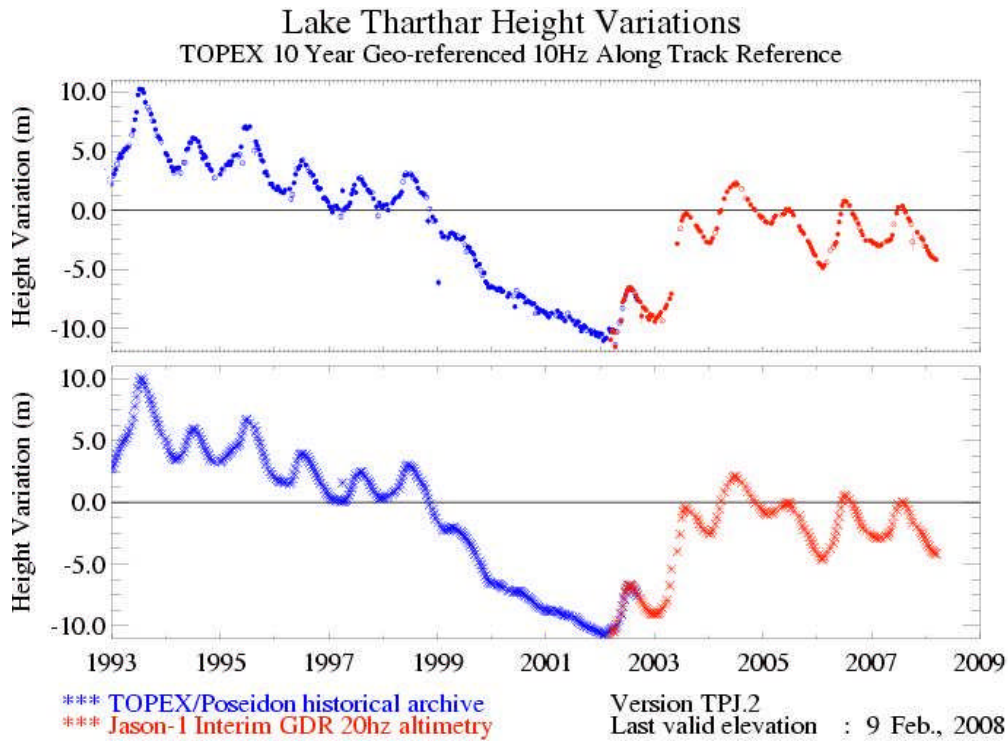


Figure 1: Global Reservoir Monitor –Buhayrat ath Tharthar.

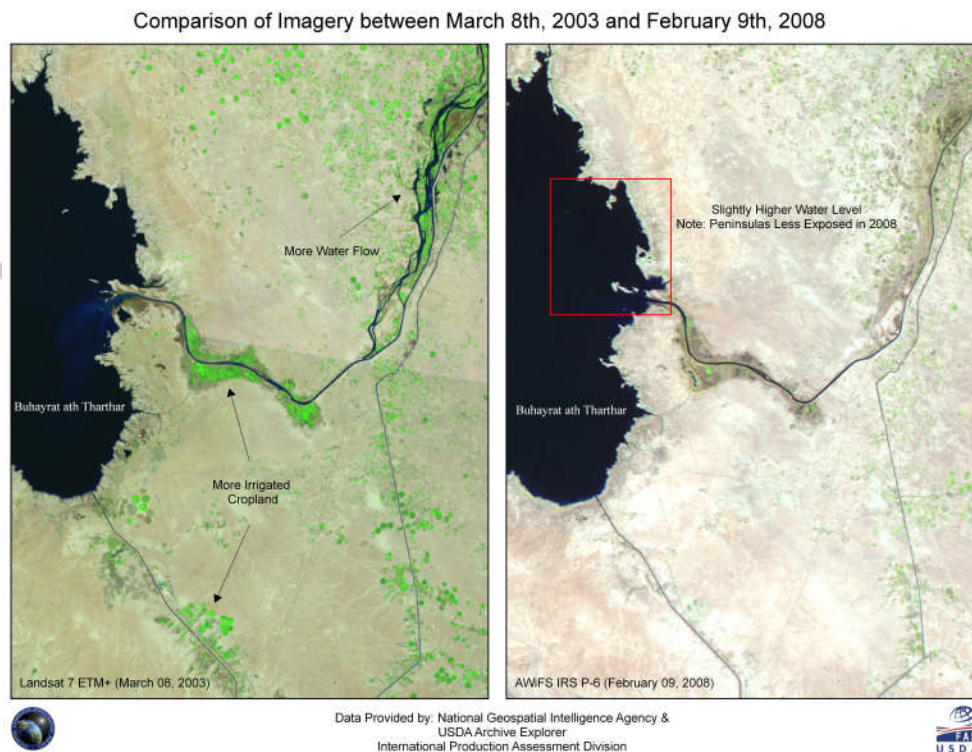


Figure 2: Comparison of irrigated cropland between March 2003 and February 2008.

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Comparison of Irrigated Cropland between March 8th, 2003 and February 9th, 2008

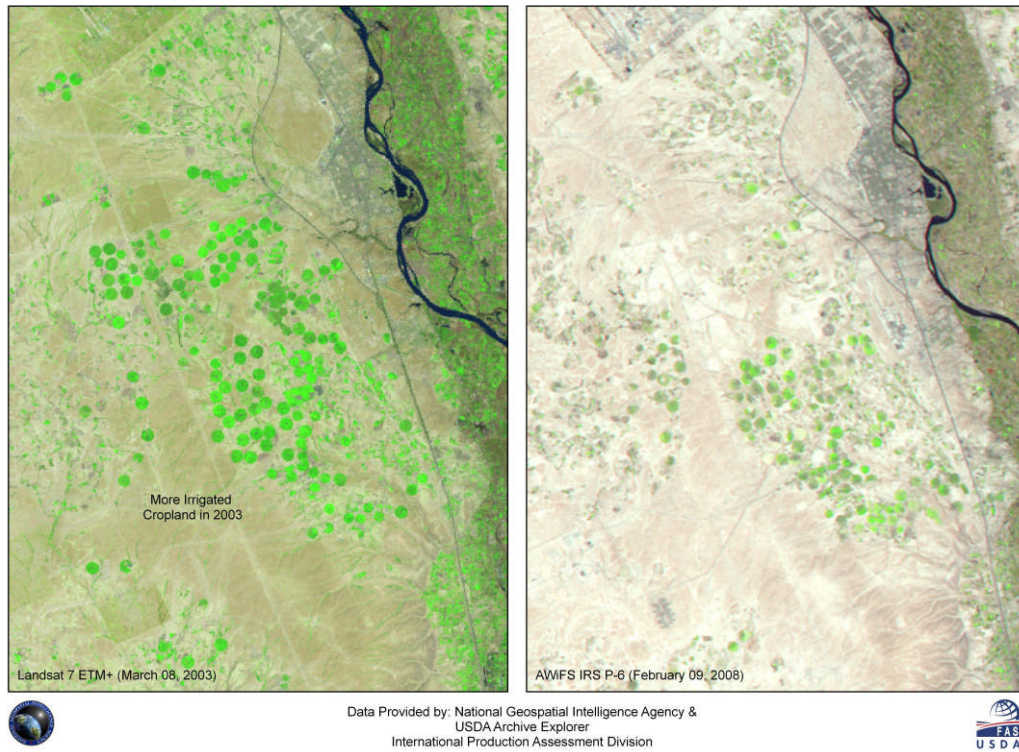


Figure 3: Comparison of irrigated cropland between March 2003 and February 2008.

Comparison of Irrigated Cropland in Central Iraq between March 8th, 2003 and February 9th, 2008

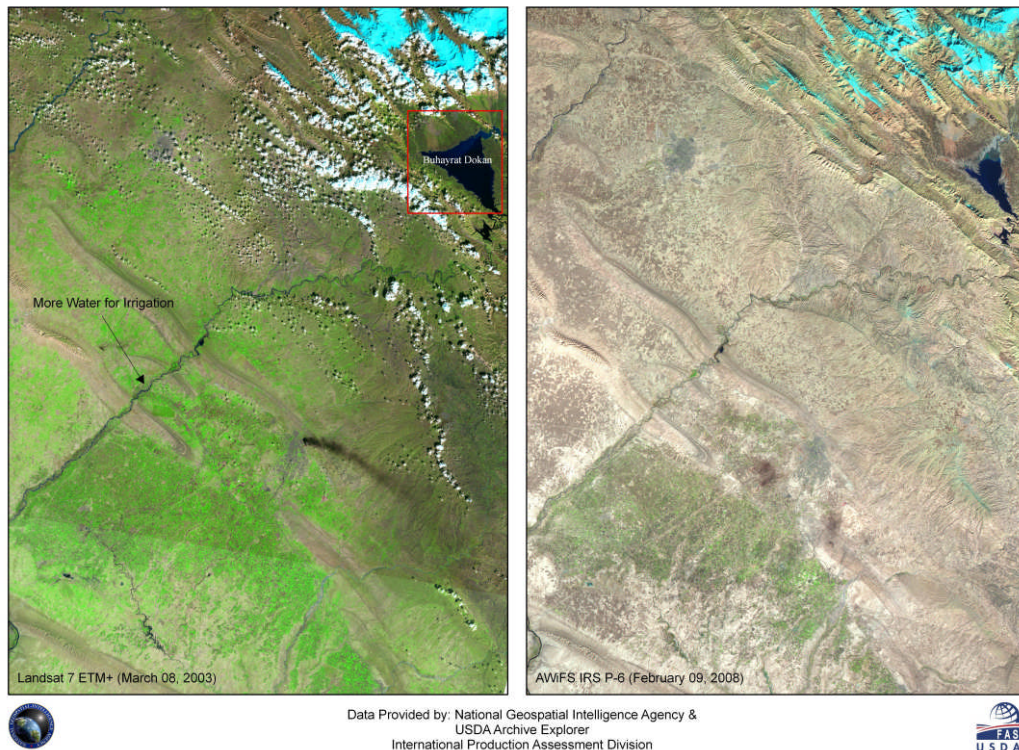


Figure4: Comparison of cropland abundance and water levels in the north between March 2003 and February 2008.

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Comparison of MODIS NDVI February 2007 and February 2008

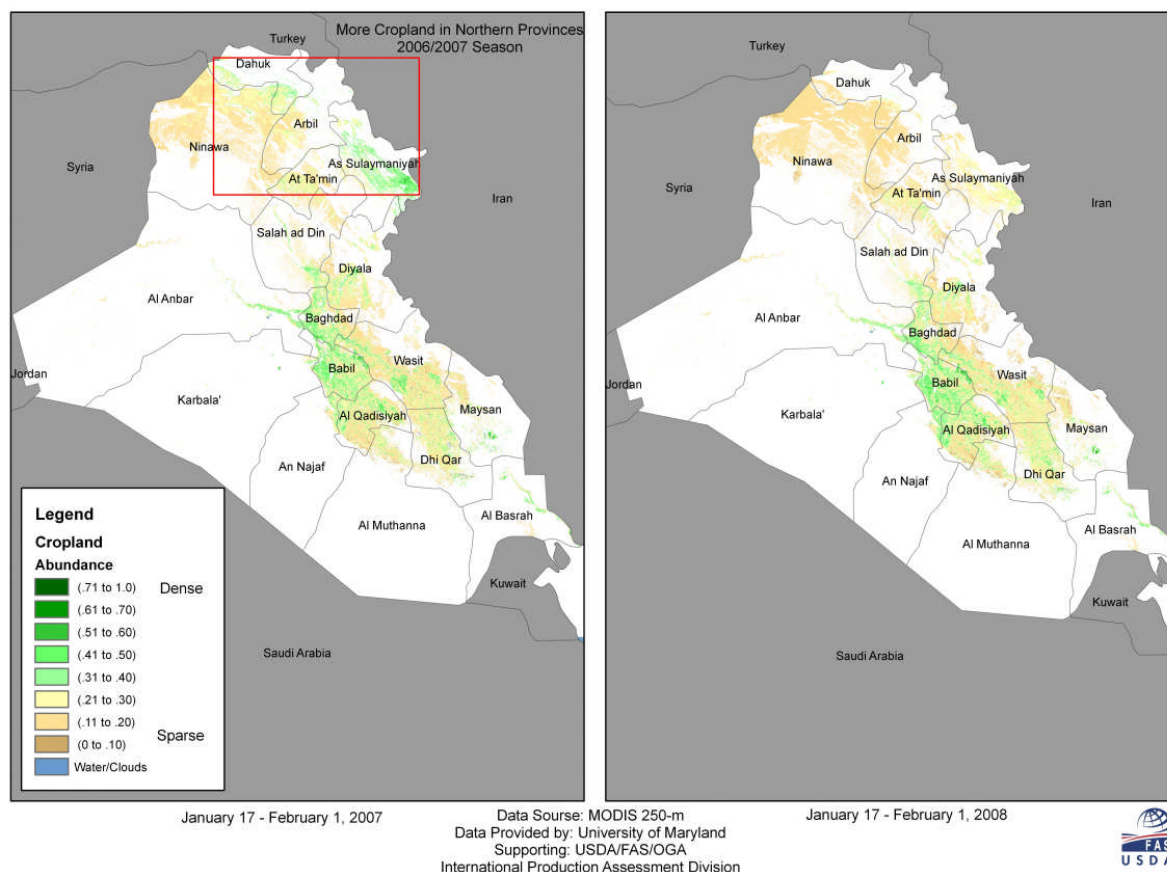


Figure 5: Comparison of MODIS NDVI between February 2007 and February 2008.

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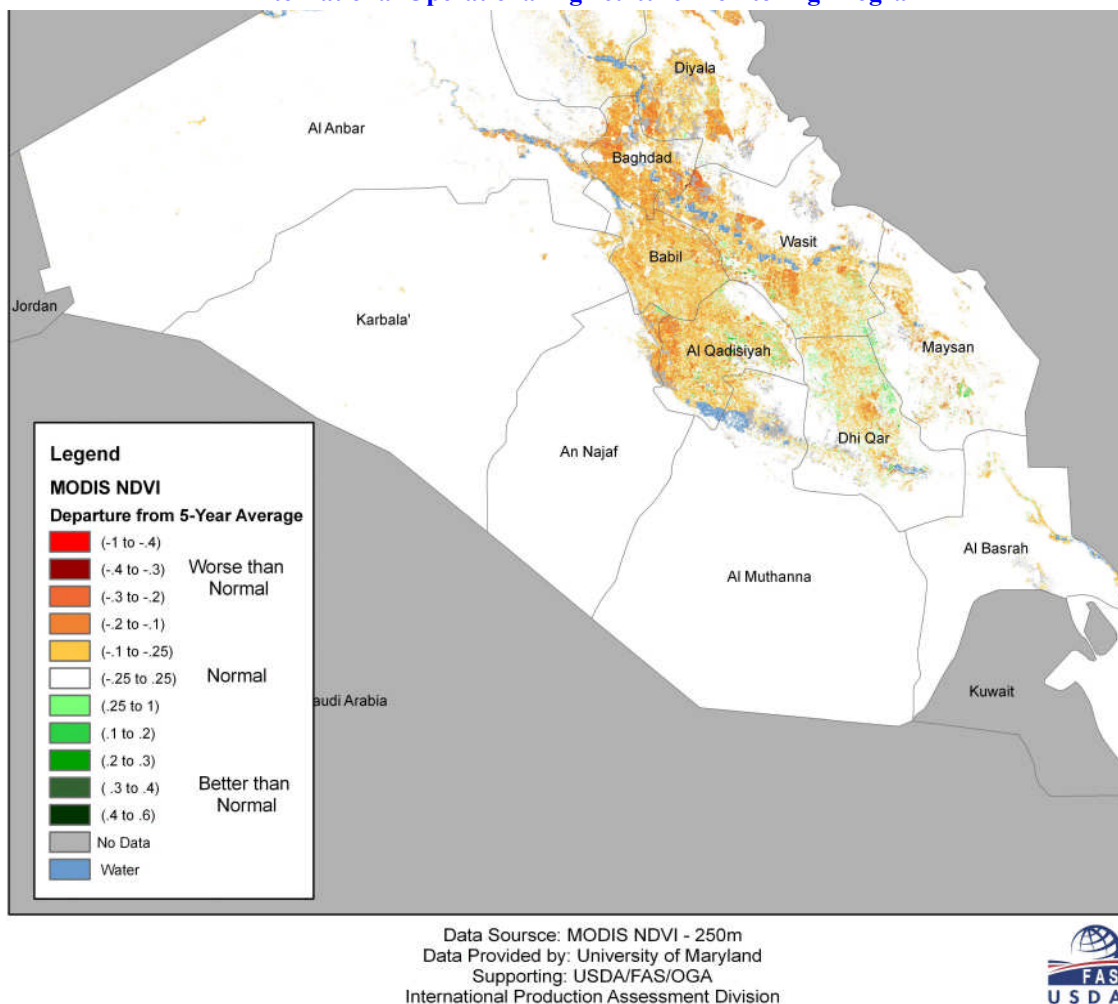


Figure 6: Comparison of MODIS NDVI between Comparison of MODIS NDVI between February 2008 and 5-year average.

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Comparison of Quickbird Imagery between
Nov 24th 2007 and Feb 9th, 2008 (AOI #6 Ninawa)

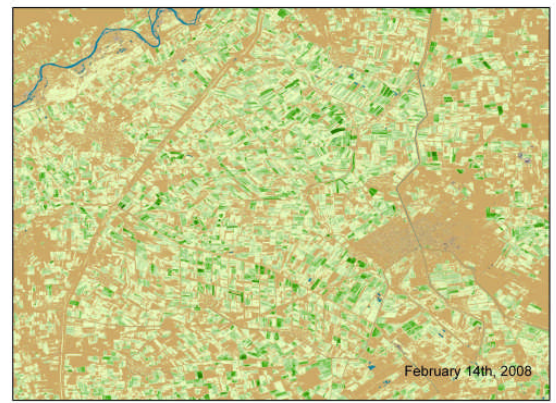
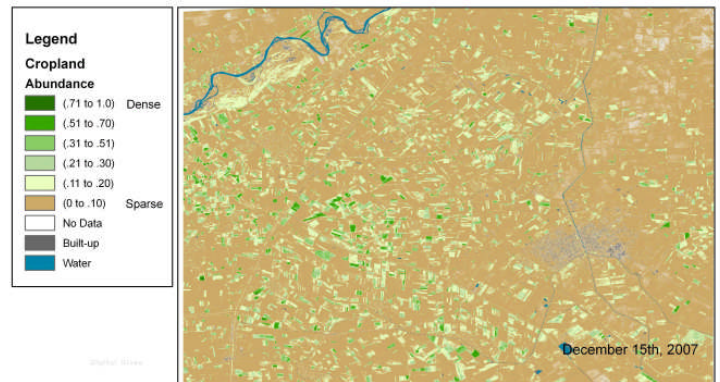


Data Source: Quickbird Multispectral
Data Provided by: National Geospatial Intelligence Agency
Supporting: USDA/FAS/OGA
International Production Assessment Division



Figure 7: Within season comparison of Quickbird imagery over AOI #6 Ninawa.

Comparison of Cropland Abundance between
Dec 15th 2007 and Feb 14th, 2008 (AOI #14 At' Tamin)



Data Source: Quickbird Multispectral
Data Provided by: National Geospatial Intelligence Agency
Supporting: USDA/FAS/OGA
International Production Assessment Division



Figure 8: Within season comparison of Quickbird imagery over
AOI #14At Ta'min.